

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-00

1480

11/5/82
INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-08
L-03 PM-09 PA-01 INRE-00 SAL-01 ACDA-12 USIE-00
SP-02 SPRS-01 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2687
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

ROME 24997

FOR EUR AND IC, ALSO PASS AMBASSADOR RABB

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PORG, IT, US, AR
SUBJECT: ITALY AND THE DESAPARECIDOS: THE COMING
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

REF: ROME 24892

1. (U) THE GLARING HEADLINES IN ALL ITALIAN NEWS-
PAPERS NOVEMBER 5 HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT A NUMBER
OF ITALO-ARGENTINIAN INFANTS ARE AMONG THE DESAPARE-
CIDOS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THESE INFANTS ARE
CHILDREN OF THE MISSING WHO ALLEGEDLY HAVE BEEN
ADOPTED BY FAMILIES BOTH IN ARGENTINA AND OUTSIDE
THE COUNTRY. EVEN THE MILAN DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA
SERA", A GENERALLY CAUTIOUS OBSERVER, WENT SO FAR
AS TO PRINT PHOTOS AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF EIGHT
OF THE MISSING CHILDREN, IN THE STYLE OF SOME OF
ITS MORE SENSATIONALIST BRETHREN.

2. (U) PAPERS HAVE ALSO PICKED UP THE FACT THAT
PRIME MINISTER SPADOLINI, IN HIS NOVEMBER 4 ADDRESS
AT THE CONFERENCE ON FREE ELECTIONS IN THE STATE
DEPARTMENT, MADE A STRONG STATEMENT AGAINST THE
ARGENTINE JUNTA AND PROMISED TO FOLLOW UP -- BOTH
BILATERALLY AND, IF NECESSARY, IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL
FORA -- ON THE CASE OF THE MISSING ITALIANS. FURTHER-
MORE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS APPARENTLY PASSED TO
THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT PERTINI A FULL LIST OF THE
MISSING BABIES BASED ON NAMES FURNISHED BY THE PLAZA
DE MAYO ORGANIZATION. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE
THAT GERMANY AND SPAIN ARE, ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN
PRESS, ALSO MAKING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON ARGEN-
TINIANS OF SPANISH OR GERMAN ORIGIN WHO ARE AMONG THE
DESAPARACIDOS.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE BIGNONE GOVERN-
MENT HAS ADMITTED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DID, IN
FACT, MAKE A NUMBER OF APPROACHES OVER THE YEARS REGARDING
THE FATE OF MISSING ITALO-ARGENTINIANS.

4. COMMENT. THIS ADMISSION WILL, OF COURSE, BE
FACTORED IN TO THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT
AND MAY GO A WAYS TOWARD TAKING THE HEAT OFF THE
FARNESINA. THE DEBATE ITSELF HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE
FULL SPECTRUM OF PARTIES, AND WILL MAKE FOREIGN MINISTER
COLOMBO'S RETURN FROM THE U. S. MORE LIVELY THAN
ANTICIPATED.

BRIDGES

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